

STAFF NEWS



Communicating with Professionals in Corrections and Parole

Prison Reform Special Session Begins Today

By JAMES TILTON

Secretary, (A) Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Governor Schwarzenegger's recent call for a special session of the Legislature to address and solve the urgent issue of overcrowding in our prison system begins in earnest this week with hearings scheduled to begin on Tuesday, August 15.

As acting Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, this extraordinary effort by the Governor to focus the Legislature on the state's urgent need for public safety and rehabilitation has been both gratifying and challenging for hundreds of CDCR staff statewide as they prepared for this special session.

I want to thank those staff, but most importantly – if I could – I would like to personally thank each of the nearly 58,000 employees within the CDCR family for their

strength under very trying circumstances – both on the line at our facilities and parole offices, as well as

Overcrowding Challenges Rehabilitation



Overhead shot of a gymnasium at Mule Creek State Prison illustrating the triple-bunking of inmates due to systemwide overcrowding. This picture was taken July 19, 2006.

TECHNOLOGY & PREVENTION

High Risk Sex Offender Task Force Delivers Recommendations To Governor

Members of the California High Risk Sex Offender (HRSO) Task Force today presented Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger with 10 recommendations for a statewide system to improve policies related to the placement, supervision and monitoring of high risk sex offenders in local communities to enhance public safety.

The task force was created in May 2006 by Executive Order S-08-06, and was charged with reviewing the current statutory requirements and California

Department of Corrections (CDCR) policies on notifying, placing, monitoring, and enforcing parole policies with regard to high risk sex offenders. The task force, co-chaired by Assembly Members Todd Spitzer (R-Orange) and Rudy Bermudez (D-Norwalk) and CDCR Secretary (A) Jim Tilton, is composed of state and local law enforcement

For more information on the Special Session, please visit the CDCR website at:
www.cdcr.ca.gov

Secretary Tilton Puts Call-Out for Key Campaigners in 50th Anniversary California State Employees Charitable Campaign

I want to personally invite you to become a Key Campaigner or Auditor for the 50th Anniversary of the California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC) which will take place from Oct 2-13.

“Make a Difference” is this year’s theme and Key Campaigners and Auditors play a critical role in the success of this Campaign. Each Branch/Unit is to provide one Key Campaigner for every 15-20 employees, and 2 Auditors per major site location.

As a Key Campaigner, you will be granted time to attend training, distribute and collect the pledge forms



in October and provide information for staff about the State Employees Campaign.

As an Auditor, you will be granted time to attend training and help ensure that the pledge form is filled out correctly. The campaign will recruit Auditors for each major site/office location (e.g. 1515 S Street, 501 J Street, 2201 Broadway, Aerojet, etc.).

If you would like to be a part of the TEAM this year or have volunteered in the past as an Auditor or Key Campaigner for the 50th Anniversary of the California State Employees Charitable Campaign, please obtain your supervisors approval, and then contact the Chairperson by telephone or e-mail by Friday, August 25.

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Thank you!
James Tilton,
Secretary (a)
CDCR

Avenal State Prison Hosts First Family Support Day

By JOHN PARREIRA

AA/PIO
Avenal State Prison

On Aug. 4, Phoenix House Substance Abuse Program at Avenal State Prison conducted its first Family Support Day. 19 inmates and 35 family members participated in this event.

The benefits of the Family Support Day are to increase the chances of inmates succeeding upon parole.

Warden Kathy Mendoza-Powers who facilitated the event, was joined by several guest speakers. Manny Rivera, Regional Director of In-Prison Programs for Phoenix House advised inmates, families and guests of the vital role family member’s play in the recovery process.

“I feel this first event was a huge success,” said Warden Mendoza-Powers. “The primary objective of introducing family to the continuum of care and gaining their support was definitely met. We anticipate an even

larger turn-out at our next Family Support date set for February 2007.”

Parole Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 were represented by the Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency (SASCA), which is instrumental in placing parolees into the Community Based Programs within their parole region. Each SASCA region representative spoke about the programs available to the inmates/residents.



Warden Mendoza-Powers addresses visitors on the program.

Submissions

Staff News publicize staff activities, innovative programs, and transmits important information to the rank-and-file. To this end, we need stories and pictures to be submitted for publication. Please send your submissions to:

CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov

Nation's First Prison Pre-Apprenticeship Program For Construction Jobs Debuts at Folsom State Prison

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Secretary James Tilton, the Prison Industry Authority, and the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council announced June 28 the graduation of 16 inmates, incarcerated at California State Prison, Sacramento, from the newly established pre-apprenticeship program that teaches inmates construction skills they can use to successfully obtain employment upon parole.

After completion of the training, the first of its type in the nation, paroling inmates will be eligible for placement in a full-scale apprenticeship program, offered through the Carpenters Training Committee for Northern California, which leads to jobs with construction companies that employ organized labor.



CDCR Secretary (A) Tilton congratulates the graduates on their accomplishments.



The first graduating class gets a portrait taken.

As part of the new training program, called Career Technical Education-Carpentry, inmates are refurbishing and converting the previously vacant Green Valley Fire Camp 12, at Folsom State Prison, into a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation/PIA Training and Engineering Center. There, inmates gain proficiencies in various skill sets including concrete pouring, framing,

drywall, taping and texturing, painting, roofing, and finished carpentry skills. Some of the graduating inmates will be transferred to PIA's modular building enterprise, located at Folsom State Prison, where portable structures will be manufactured and sold to State agencies. PIA will pay the initial union dues and provide a full complement of tools to inmates

who complete the program and enter Carpenters Local 46.

"This innovative training program is part of Governor Schwarzenegger's efforts to rehabilitate inmates in California's adult correctional institutions and is an important component in our renewed focus to assist inmates with the re-entry process. This is truly an investment in public safety, because employed parolees mean safer communities," said Secretary Tilton.

"The Prison Industry Authority and the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council have developed this partnership to provide a new type of job training. Inmates can learn various carpentry skill sets that are easily transferable to jobs on the outside. I am enthused about this program because by preparing inmates prior to their release, we can address the issues of unemployment among parolees," said Charles Pattillo, PIA's acting General Manager.

REFORM..(From page one)



Overcrowding pushes programming out of gyms when beds are needed to house inmates.

in the various support services areas.

I want to thank you for being patient, giving your all when asked – but most of all – for sharing my confidence that much good will come from this Legislative session.

The media coverage and legislative interest in this department's real need for assistance has shed vital light on the day-to-day public safety work of uniformed and civilian staff employed by CDCR. At the end of the day, this department provides a high level of public safety to the residents of this state, and is charged with providing rehabilitative options to those inmates and wards that choose to rebuild their lives.

Since the re-organization of this Department, CDCR has made great strides in several areas including the development of the "Right Prison, Right Mission" strategy for housing inmates in our adult facilities, the development of the gender specific programs which is becoming a national model, and the reform efforts of the Division of Juvenile Justice which has been led by partnerships

with stakeholders from throughout the State and across the country.

However, CDCR can't do the reform work alone. Governor Schwarzenegger continues to be an enthusiastic sponsor of the ongoing reforms, but it is clear that this organization will need the assistance of the Legislature, and the general public, to stay the course of public safety, while tackling our overcrowded prisons and improving the opportunities for reha-

bilitation and personal growth for the inmates we are charged with.

California's overall state prison population is currently at an all-time high of approximately 172,000 inmates. The department has run out of traditional (celled and dormitory) capacity. Inmates have been forced in non-traditional beds (gyms, and dayrooms).

The department is currently housing more than 16,000 inmates in non-traditional beds – enough to fill up more than three entire prisons. Non-traditional beds are contrary to good correctional practice and pose a safety risk to our staff and other inmates.

When a facility exceeds design capacity and non-traditional beds are placed in inappropriate areas such as gyms and dayrooms – space is no longer available to offer training, education, recreation and treatment services such as self-help groups.

I don't think the public is served well if we simply warehouse offenders. We must provide the opportunity for incarcerated felons to become better citizens and provide inmates



Inmate needs are diverse. However overcrowding has caused delays in delivery of programming because recreation and treatment space is being used to house inmates.

the tools they need for when they return to our communities. That cannot happen when 50 inmates are sleeping in triple-bunks in a dayroom or gymnasium. I'd rather see those spaces used for what they were intended for: rehabilitative programs.

Governor Schwarzenegger shares my concern for this staggering challenge, and is committed to work with the Legislature to see what we can do to improve an inmate's chance to change and grow, while ensuring the safety of staff and other inmates.

Many of you may not be familiar with what Governor Schwarzenegger is asking the Legislature to adopt. Specifically, the Governor is asking for four things:

- Female inmate reform and reen-

being released from prison;

- Appropriate funding to construct new facilities that would ease inmate overcrowding and provide housing for population increases projected for future years by remodeling existing facilities for greater capacity, using privately-run facilities and building several new prisons, and
- Placing approximately 5,000 inmates who are not U.S. citizens in public or privately-oper-

vide rehabilitation opportunities is unquestioned. I take great comfort in knowing that this special session will pave that necessary path to solving overcrowding while expanding rehabilitation services.



Poor sight lines lead to staff safety issues with overcrowding.



Triple-bunking is common in dayrooms and gyms in many male adult facilities such as CSP-Solano (pictured on this page) and California Institution for Men (page 4).

try enhancements to provide up to 4,500 beds in community-based facilities;

- Male inmate reform and reentry enhancements to provide for up to 10 facilities in local communities, with a total of 5,000 beds for inmates within 18 months of

ated facilities in other states.

This special session on prison reform is about making our correctional system in California better, more effective, more efficient and most importantly – safer for everyone.

The challenges CDCR staff face daily are enormous. Our commitment to deal with overcrowding and pro-

Staff News

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HRSO..(From page one)

officials, parole representatives, victims and community groups. The task force held public hearings last week in Sacramento, Fresno and Orange County to solicit input on the issues.

"I applaud Governor Schwarzenegger for calling for the creation of this Task Force," said Secretary Tilton. "If we can adopt policies to make the management of this dangerous population better for public safety, then we must work together to do so. This department is committed to working with local law enforcement, community leaders and victims' advocacy groups to improve the policies and practices related to the placement and monitoring of sex offenders in the community."

The Task Force's recommendations include:

- The application of a risk assessment tool to determine if an inmate is a high risk offender no later than 120 days prior to being released on parole;
- All California inmates required to register as sex offenders and those designated as high risk must receive appropriate, specialized treatment while incarcerated;
- Adopt improved procedures for notifying local law enforcement and victims prior to the release of a sex offender from prison;
- Monitoring all HRSOs on parole with Global Positioning Units (GPS) units;
- Adopt Legislative changes to the Megan's law website to specifi-

cally identify HRSOs who are on parole and those that are being monitored by GPS;

- The establishment of a permanent Sex Offender Management Board.
- Directing parole oversight of HRSOs to include a four part program including, treatment, parole supervision, the use of polygraphs and victims advocacy to both monitor and modify the behavior of offenders.

Once a sex offender has served his prison term, CDCR is mandated to release him back to the community. CDCR currently oversees about 10,000 sex offenders, of which about 3,200 have been designated high risk.

"Almost all convicted sex offenders will eventually return to our communities, with a short period of time under direct supervision, either on parole, probation or conditional release," said Task Force Co-Chair Assembly Member Todd Spitzer.

"It is imperative that during this period of time when sex offenders are under direct supervision, there is a comprehensive and cohesive network of interventions available to control the behavior of sex offenders and prevent recidivism and future victimization."

In June 2006, one recommendation made by the Task Force was deemed critical to public safety and, at the request of the Task Force members, was sent to the Governor immediately.

The Governor subsequently issued Executive Order S-09-06 which directs the CDCR to develop a pre-release program that thoroughly evaluates all sex offenders and iden-

Valley State Prison for Women Nets \$26,000 in Firework Sales



The Results are in!!! — Correctional Chicano Workers Association (CCWA) of Valley State Prison for Women took on the big task of manning a fireworks stand during the Fourth of July weekend. Some \$26,000 in sales was made. Great Job CCWA!!!. CCWA is committed in supporting local High School seniors, who are continuing their education, with \$500 and \$1,000 dollar scholarships. CCWA also sponsors Elementary school kids in Madera County by purchasing clothes for kids who need them.

tifies appropriate housing prior to their release from prison. This pre-release screening should ensure compliance with state residency laws and thereby eliminate the need for “temporary housing” such as in motels or too close to a school. This recommendation is already being implemented by the CDCR’s parole division.

“The placement of convicted sex offenders in our community will always be a concern for all Californians,” said Task Force Co-Chair Assemblyman Rudy Bermudez. “We must be diligent in our obligation to protect communities and our children.

The complete list of recommendations and the task force’s report may be found on the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s website at www.cdcr.ca.gov.

California High Risk Sex Offender Task Force

Assembly Member Rudy Bermúdez (D-Norwalk), Co-chair
Assembly Member Todd Spitzer (R-Orange), Co-chair

James Tilton, Secretary California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Members

Jan Scully, District Attorney Sacramento County California District Attorneys Association

Ed Bonner, Sheriff Placer County California State Sheriffs Association

Steve Krull, Chief Livermore Police Department California Police Chiefs Association

Jerry Powers, President Chief Probation Officers of California

David Runnels Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Operations California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

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Suzanne Brown-McBride Executive Director California Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Brenda Crowding-Johnson Parole Agent I Parole Agents Association of California

Alex Padilla, President League of California Cities

Don Horsley, Sheriff San Mateo County California State Association of Counties

VSPW Battle of The Badges Nets Record Blood Donation Total

By Frank Sanders

AA/PIO

Valley State Prison for Women

For another year, Valley State Prison for Women took home the gold with 117 donors participating in the 2006 Battle of the Badges Blood Drive. Last year VSPW broke a record with 91 donations, making this a second annual win.

VSPW Warden Gloria Henry congratulated her staff for the record donation and indicated the team will return again in hopes of a three-peat.

As part of the Fresno County Battle of the Badges Blood Drive conducted May 11, law enforcement agencies from all over the Central Valley, faced off in a friendly compe-

tition to save lives by barring their arms and donating blood.

With fierce competition brewing between administration and personnel from Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW), Central California Women’s Facility, Coalinga Mental Health Hospital, and Pleasant Valley State Prison, VSPW walked away as the winner with the most blood donations and earning the perpetual trophy and most importantly, bragging rights for another year.

“It really is time of camaraderie for all who come out to give. Not



only were staff members of these institutions donating blood, but friends and family joined in on the fun while helping to save lives.” Warden Henry said. “One really does not know who may need blood some day. It could be someone in the family, relative or a close friend. That is why it is important, if your health allows it, for everyone to donate blood.”